

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 19, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: Alderman Bob Conklin.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Lee asked for a moment of silence to remember Anita Elgin who passed away last night. Anita was with the library over 35 years and had done everything there. Mayor Lee conveyed condolences to the family.

Ed Long, Wastewater Treatment Plant employee, stated that he is representing the non-union employees in asking what is going on with the wage study. Long acknowledged receipt of Manager Shumard's email with the update and asked if there is further information. Mayor Lee explained there is no more information. We are not ignoring the study. We have a deficit and the state is not making it easier. Manager Shumard stated his facts were in the email and has no recommendations yet. Long stated that when there is no report, we are led to believe that nothing is happening. Shumard stated that he was afraid of giving out partial information for fear of misinterpretation. Alderman Martin indicated that with the cost of the survey, they will not throw the results out the window. Martin continued by stating that we started this fiscal year with a \$300,000 deficit and the state is making a larger hole. Long asked if consideration was given as to what to do with the study results, before the study was completed. Mayor Lee stated that he believed employees were generally underpaid and wanted to find out where to go. Alderman Stauter encouraged employees to speak up when they have concerns; he appreciates the comments. Manager Shumard stated they are proceeding with this and would not be having difficult conversations in the community if there was no plan to move forward.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) City Council Minutes of October 5, 2015
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$1,334,567.95
- C) Snow Removal Contract with Porter Brothers for winter season 2015/2016
- D) Partial Pay Request #1 for 2015 Street Project Contract #1 in the amount of \$169,870.26 to Civil Constructors

- E) Petition from Toys for Tots to hold a bucket brigade on November 7, 2015
- F) Petition from Vicki Amadeo Leal to connect a single-family residence at 1004 Elm Avenue to the City sanitary sewer system
- G) Refer to Plan Commission a Petition from Property Owners of 1702 and 1704 East Third Street to rezone the property from SR-4 Single-Family Residence District to CB Community Business District

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Alderman Stauter asked why the snow removal contracts went out for bid and if staff is comfortable with the low bidder. Manager Shumard stated the previous contractor disbanded his company and the City needed a new contractor. Director Schrader stated that he has not worked with Porter, but believes they will do a good job. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee announced that Firefighter Derek Sheaves was not available tonight.

Mayor Lee introduced two new Police Officers, Kyle Wyckstandt and Andrew Haack, who completed PTI on September 17 and are enjoying their FTO program.

Alderman Schuchard made a motion to appoint Carolyn Spencer to the CGH Medical Center Board of Directors completing the term of LaVonne Colloton; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Jerry Fund, with WIPFLi, presented the Auditor's Report. Fund briefly reviewed the report and stated a new item, GASB 67, was added pertaining to pension disclosures. Fund stated the Finance Department is well run and one of the few places where the statements are in order for them to proceed with the audit.

Alderman Elston made a motion to accept the Auditor's Report for year ending April 30, 2015, as presented; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Jens Jensen of Jensen Ecology is the site manager for the Mud to Parks and IGIG grant work at the riverfront. Jensen provided the timeline for the project with photos throughout the year:

- Bids in January 2015
- Slab demolition in March/April
- Fill began in April
- Retaining walls in July/August
- Runnel and storm water retention in September
- Fill from Thomas Park, trees and seeding in October 2015

Jensen explained the plaza will be redesigned with a roundabout.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the sanitary sewer lateral repayment agreement for 102 Eighth Avenue; seconded by Alderman Martin. Diana Vasquez explained the cost is higher because sewer will be run around the house instead of under the driveway, which would cost more. It is more cost effective to do while the road is under construction. Manager Shumard explained there were three houses hooked up to one sewer lateral. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the sanitary sewer lateral repayment agreement for 104 Eighth Avenue; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard explained the railroad did respond to Chief Cook's question about the safety of the tracks at Eighth Avenue but has heard nothing more. Chief Cook is at a fire at CIMCO. Manager Shumard reported that the demolition of 13 East Four Street is in progress. Shumard is waiting for Council input on the Strategic Plan.

Alderman Elston reminded everyone that Trick or Treat hours will be from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm on October 31.

Elston asked what going on with the lights at Grandon. Manager Shumard reported that the lights at Grandon are the original gas lamps converted to electric. Estimated cost for new lights is \$147,000. Shumard noted that he and Superintendent Schrader noticed a crack in the top of the shell and the dead trees on the north side of the park.

Alderman Elston stated that she likes to have new employees introduced at the meetings, besides police officers and firefighters.

Mayor Lee reported that he and Shumard had talked with Bob Conklin. Conklin anticipates getting back as soon as possible.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to move to "closed session" at 7:32 p.m. to discuss a property acquisition issue as provided for under 5 ILCS 120/2a; seconded by Alderman Schuchard. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to reconvene the regular Council meeting at 9:14 p.m.; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Marie Rombouts, City Clerk